

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL CARRYING BAG

5 **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a multi-functional carrying bag having multiple storage compartments for storing of monetary items, and various personal accessories and articles, such as eyeglasses, a cell phone, credit cards, a wallet, a mirror, a date planner, a key chain, a pen holder, coins and paper currency, a pager, a flashlight and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Carrying bags, tote bags, activity bags, utility bags and the like are well known in the art and are continually being changed, modified and adapted to meet the changing needs of users. Such carrying bags are used daily by individuals traveling to school, work, office, beaches, parks, vacations, business trips, etc., taking along various accessories, personal articles and toiletries, out of necessity, for convenience, or for comfort, in order to have these necessary items for travel. Keeping them organized can be a nuisance but a necessity for “peace of mind”, in order for the user to know where the essential articles are being stored. Thus, the journey itself is often made unpleasant by the task of transporting disorganized, different sized, multiple articles, which are not stored within a predetermined storage compartment of the carrying bag.

There remains a need for a multi-functional carrying bag having multiple storage compartments for storing and holding the necessary personal articles and accessories the user needs when traveling. Further, it would be desirable to have a carrying bag with multiple pockets and storage areas shaped for holding specific articles and accessories of different sizes in a secure manner and that allows ease of accessibility.

DESCRIPTION OF PRIOR ART

Activity bags, purses, tote bags, utility bags, carrying bags, multipocket carrying cases, mobile computing bags and the like having multiple compartments and having various designs, configurations, structures and materials of construction have been generally disclosed in the prior art. For example, U.S. Patent No. 4,506,769 to FRANCO et al. discloses an activity bag system having an outer carrying bag with multiple interchangeable inner containers carried one at a time within the outer carrying bag. The activity bag system also includes a container storage cover for each inner container which also serves as a partition for the outer carrying bag. This prior art patent does not disclose or teach the design, structure and configuration of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention.

U.S. Patent No. 4,782,874 to CHARTIER discloses a convertible purse and tote bag being in the form of a small, flat purse or wallet, having internal compartments with closeable openings adapted for holding and carrying a variety of small personal articles, such as keys, change, passports and the like. The flat purse also includes a larger tote bag attached

to the purse in a flat, folded condition and contained entirely within one of the compartments. This prior art patent does not disclose or teach the design, structure and configuration of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention.

U.S. Patent No. 4,867,215 to MACIEOWITZ discloses a utility bag having a recessed
5 compartment and a carrier bag having a self-supporting smaller bag. The smaller bag is used for accessories and has a closeable opening which is readily accessible to a user through the mouth of the carrier bag. The smaller bag acts a security purse because it is essentially invisible. This prior art patent does not disclose or teach the design, structure and configuration of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention.

10 U.S. Patent No. 5,873,504 to FARMER discloses a carrying bag formed of flexible material having an upper compartment and a lower compartment separated by a dividing wall. The carrying bag includes a zippered closure extending around three sides of the bag which allows access to the lower compartment and permits the upper compartment to be pivoted away from the lower compartment. The lower compartment includes a unitary,
15 divided tray for storing of articles therein. A detachable article, such as a wearable pouch, is also included to one side of the bag by means of quick-release clip locks. The pouch includes a pocket for storing a strap assembly which may be deployed around the waist of a user in order to convert the pouch to a fanny pack. This prior art patent does not disclose or teach the design, structure and configuration of the multi-functional carrying bag of the
20 present invention.

U.S. Patent No. 5,938,336 to KING discloses a lightweight, flexible and machine washable convertible organizer tote bag that has three basic carrying portions, a central U-shaped or sling compartment and two side storage panels on either side of the tote bag. The bag also readily converts from its tote bag conformation to a seat cover for use on chairs, chaises, and the like. This prior art patent does not disclose or teach the design, structure and configuration of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention.

U.S. Patent No. 6,354,477 to TRUMMER discloses a mobile computer carrying bag for receiving a portable personal computer. The carrying bag is configurable to be carried in a briefcase mode, a shoulder bag mode and a backpack mode. The carrying bag includes other interior compartments for holding accessories and appliances within the carrying bag. This prior art patent does not disclose or teach the design, structure and configuration of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention.

None of the aforementioned prior art patents disclose or teach the features shown in the design, configuration and structure of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention having a plurality of storage compartments for holding and/or storing accessories, such items being a cell phone, eyeglasses, a wallet, a notebook, a key chain having keys thereon, a mirror, a calculator, a ballpoint pen, credit cards and the like.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a unique and novel multi-functional carrying bag having center, front, rear and side storage compartments for holding and storing of a variety of accessories, personal articles, toiletries and cosmetics.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a multi-functional carrying bag having a zippered center storage compartment with a center interior storage pouch for storing and holding coins and paper currency.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a multi-functional carrying bag
5 having a pair of zippered upper and lower front storage compartments, wherein the upper front storage compartment is used for holding credit cards and a mirror within a card holder member, a pen within a pen holder and a removable keychain ring for holding keys; and wherein the lower front storage compartment is used for holding a wallet and a calculator.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a multi-functional carrying bag
10 having a zippered rear storage compartment used for storing and holding an address book/notebook and/or date planner.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a multi-functional carrying bag having a pair of side storage compartments, wherein one of the side storage compartments includes a removable eyeglass zippered pouch for holding sunglasses or eyeglasses therein;
15 and wherein the other side storage compartment is used for storing and holding a cell phone, a beeper or other appropriate accessories therein.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a unique and novel multi-functional carrying bag that is easy to use that allows for ease of accessibility and is made from flexible and cleanable materials for extended use.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a multi-functional carrying bag that can be mass produced in an automated and economical manner and is readily affordable by the consumer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a multi-functional carrying bag including a center storage compartment for forming a center interior storage space therein; the top wall having an opening for access to the center interior storage space. The carrying bag further includes an upper front storage compartment for forming an upper interior storage space and a lower front storage compartment for forming a lower interior storage space therein. The carrying bag also includes a rear storage compartment for forming a rear interior storage space therein; a first side storage compartment for forming a first side interior storage space therein; and a second side storage compartment for forming a second side interior storage space therein. The rear wall of the upper front storage compartment forms the front wall of the center storage compartment. The top wall of the lower front storage compartment forms the bottom wall of the center storage compartment; and the rear wall of the lower front storage compartment forms a part of the rear wall of the rear storage compartment. A part of the rear wall of the rear storage compartment forms a part of the rear wall of the center storage compartment. The interior wall of each of the first and second side storage compartments forms the opposing side walls of the center storage compartment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon the consideration of the following detailed description of the presently-preferred embodiment when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a top perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the preferred
5 embodiment of the present invention showing the carrying bag in a closed configuration;

Figure 2 is a top perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the preferred embodiment of the present invention showing the carrying bag in an opened configuration;

Figure 3 is a front perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing the carrying bag in a closed configuration;

10 Figure 4 is a front perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing the carrying bag in an opened configuration;

Figure 5 is a rear perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing the carrying bag in a closed configuration;

15 Figure 6 is a rear perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing the carrying bag in an opened configuration;

Figure 7 is a bottom perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing a bottom panel, a left side panel and a front panel having two storage compartments therein;

20 Figure 8 is an exploded top perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing multiple accessories being stored in corresponding storage compartments;

Figure 9 is an exploded front perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing multiple accessories being stored in corresponding storage compartments;

Figure 10 is an exploded rear perspective view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention showing multiple accessories being stored in corresponding storage compartments;

Figure 11 is a cross-sectional view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention taken along lines 11-11 in the direction of the arrows showing the multiple storage compartments within the carrying bag;

Figure 12 is a cross-sectional view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention taken along lines 12-12 in the direction of the arrows showing a first side storage compartment and magnetic bar elements of a magnetic closure member for closing the side storage compartment within the carrying bag; and

Figure 13 is a cross-sectional view of the multi-functional carrying bag of the present invention taken along lines 13-13 in the direction of the arrows showing a second side storage compartment and magnetic bar elements of a magnetic closure member for closing the side storage compartment within the carrying bag.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A multi-functional carrying bag 10 having multiple storage compartments, pouches and pockets is represented in detail by Figures 1 through 13 of the patent drawings. The

multiple storage compartments, pouches, sleeves and pockets of carrying bag 10 are used for storing and holding various accessories, personal articles, cosmetics or toiletries, such as eyeglasses or sunglasses 14 within an eyeglass case 15; a wallet 16; a day planner, an address book or notebook 18; a key chain 20 having keys 22 thereon; a ballpoint pen 24; paper currency 28 or coins 30; a credit card 32; a calculator 34; a cosmetic case or lipstick case 36; a mini-flashlight 38; and the like. The multi-functional carrying bag can be used by men or women throughout the year for traveling to work, school and/or vacations for transporting the aforementioned various personal accessories, personal articles, cosmetics or toiletries in an organized manner.

The carrying bag 10 includes a flexible and pliable main bag body 40 having a substantially rectangular shape, as shown in Figures 1, 3, 5 and 7 of the drawings. The main bag body 40 includes a center body section 42; a front body section 44; a rear body section 46; a left side body section 48; a right side body section 50; and a bottom body section 52. The center body section 42, as shown in Figure 1, 2 and 8, includes a center storage compartment 60 having a top zipper member 62 thereon.

The center storage compartment 60, as shown in Figures 2, 8 and 11, includes a front wall 64, a rear wall 66, side walls 68 and 70, a top wall 71 and a bottom wall 72 for forming a center interior storage space 74 therein. The rear wall 66, as shown in Figures 8 and 11, includes an inner storage pouch 76 having a pouch zipper member 78 thereon. The inner storage pouch 76 includes a pouch receiving space 79 therein. The center interior storage space 74 of the center storage compartment 60 can typically hold and store larger or bulkier

personal items, accessories, cosmetics or toiletries, such as a paperback book, a cosmetic traveling case, etc. The inner storage pouch 76 can be used for storing and holding the user's paper currency 28 and coins 30 therein, as shown in Figure 8 of the drawings.

The front body section 44, as shown in Figures 1 through 4, 8, 9 and 11 of the drawings, includes an upper front storage compartment 80 having an upper front zipper member 82 thereon and a lower front storage compartment 110 having a lower front zipper member 112 thereon. The upper front storage compartment 80, as shown in Figures 2, 4, 8, 9 and 11, includes a top wall 83, a front wall 84, a rear wall 86, a left expandable side wall 88, a right expandable side wall 90, and a bottom wall 91 for forming an upper interior storage space 92 therein. The rear wall 86, as shown in Figures 2, 8, and 11, includes a card sleeve member 94 having a plurality of sleeve receiving slots 96a to 96d for receiving one or more credit cards 32 therein. The rear wall 86 also includes a pen holder sleeve 98 having a sleeve opening 100 for holding the ballpoint pen 24 therethrough. The rear wall 86 further includes a holding strap 102 with a key O-ring 104 attached thereto for attaching and holding the key chain 20 having keys 22 thereon. The right folding or expandable side wall 90, as depicted in Figures 2 and 8, includes a mirror holding strap 106 having a first end 107a and a second end 107b and a mirror frame 108 thereon. The first end 107a of the mirror holding strap 106 is fixedly attached to a centrally-located position 109 on the right expandable side wall 90 and the second end 107b of the mirror holding strap 106 is attached to the mirror frame 108 having the mirror 26 therein. As shown in Figure 2, the mirror 26 with mirror frame 108 is received and held within one of the sleeve receiving slots 96d of the card sleeve

member 94 for storage when not in use.

The lower front storage compartment 110, as shown in Figure 1, 3, 4, 9 and 11, includes a top wall 114, a front wall 115, a bottom wall 116, a left side wall 118, a right side wall 120 and a rear wall 122 for forming a lower interior storage space 124 therein. The lower interior storage space 124 of the lower front storage compartment 110 is used for holding a wallet 16 or checkbook case and the like, as shown in Figures 4 and 9 of the drawings. The bottom wall 116, as depicted in Figure 9, includes a sleeve pouch 126 having a sleeve opening 128 therethrough for receiving a calculator 34 therein.

The rear body section 46, as shown in Figures 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 11 of the drawings, includes a rear storage compartment 130 having a rear zipper member 132 thereon. The rear storage compartment 130, as depicted in Figures 5, 6 and 10, includes a front wall 134, a top wall 136, a rear wall 138, a left side wall 140, a right side wall 142 and a bottom wall 144 for forming a rear interior storage space 146 therein. The rear interior storage space 146 is used for holding a day planner 18, a notebook, an address book, a paperback novel and the like therein. The rear interior storage space 146 of the rear storage compartment 130 can also hold and store larger or bulkier personal items, accessories, cosmetics and toiletries, such as a small tool kit, a first aid kit, sewing kit, etc.

The left side body section 48, as shown in Figures 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 of the drawings, includes a first side storage compartment 150 having a first magnetic closure member 152 thereon. The first side storage compartment 150 includes an exterior side wall

154, an interior wall 156, a front side wall 158, a rear side wall 160 and a bottom side wall
162 for forming a first side interior storage space 164 therein. The first magnetic closure
member 152 includes a first magnetic bar 155 sewn within an upper section 154s of the
exterior side wall 154 and a second magnetic bar 157 sewn within an upper section 156s of
5 the interior wall 156 of the first side storage compartment 150, as depicted in Figures 6, 8
and 9 of the drawings. The exterior side wall 154 further includes a first belt holding loop
166 also being sewn within the upper section 154s of the exterior side wall 154. The first
belt holding loop 166 is used for attaching to a first belt buckle member 168 having a tine
component 169 thereon, as depicted in Figure 2 of the drawings. The first side interior
10 storage space 164 is used for holding an electronic accessory such as a cell phone 12, a
beeper, a PDA unit, a pocket camera and the like, as shown in Figures 8 and 9 of the
drawings.

The right side body section 50, as shown in Figures 1 through 4, 7 through 9 and 13
of the drawings, includes a second side storage compartment 170 having a second magnetic
15 closure member 172 thereon. The second side storage compartment 170 includes an exterior
side wall 174, an interior wall 176, a front side wall 178, a rear side wall 180 and a bottom
side wall 182 for forming a second side interior storage space 184 therein. The second
magnetic closure member 172 includes a first magnetic bar 175 sewn within an upper section
174s of the exterior side wall 174 and a second magnetic bar 177 sewn within an upper
20 section 176s of the interior wall 176 of the second side storage compartment 170, as shown
in Figure 4 of the drawings. The exterior side wall 174 further includes a second belt holding

loop 186 also being sewn within the upper section 174s of the exterior side wall 174. The second belt holding loop 186 is used for attaching to a second belt buckle member 188 having a tine component 189 thereon, as depicted in Figure 2 of the drawings. The second side interior storage space 184 is used for holding of an eyeglass case 15 having eyeglasses or sunglasses 14 therein.

The bottom body section 52, as shown in Figure 7, includes a bottom wall 54 having a plurality of foot members 56a, 56b, 56c and 56d thereon. The bottom wall 54 is made of a semi-rigid material for providing the carrying case 10 structural integrity.

The first and second belt buckle members 168 and 188 are detachably connected to an adjustable carrying strap 190, as depicted in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. The adjustable carrying strap 190 includes a first end 192 and a second end 194. The first end 192 of carrying strap 190 includes a plurality of tine openings 196 for receiving the tine component 169 therein for adjusting the first belt buckle member 168 to a given strap length L_1 by the user. The second end 194 of carrying strap 190 also includes a plurality of tine openings 198 for receiving the tine component 189 therein for adjusting the second belt buckle member 188 to a given strap length L_2 by the user.

The carrying bag 10 can be made from materials such as leather, faux leather, flexible plastics and woven fabrics, etc. The carrying bag 10 can vary in size with regard to height, width and length depending on the need of the user.

ADVANTAGES OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Accordingly, an advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a multi-functional carrying bag having center, top, front, rear and side storage compartments for holding and storing of a variety of accessories, personal articles, toiletries and cosmetics.

5 Another advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a multi-functional carrying bag having a zippered center storage compartment with a center interior storage pouch for storing and holding coins and paper currency.

 Another advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a multi-functional carrying bag having a pair of zippered upper and lower front storage compartments, wherein
10 the upper front storage compartment is used for holding credit cards and a mirror within a card holder member, a pen within a pen holder and a removable keychain ring for holding keys; and wherein the lower front storage compartment is used for holding a wallet and a calculator.

 Another advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a multi-functional
15 carrying bag having a zippered rear storage compartment used for storing and holding an address book/notebook and/or date planner.

 Another advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a multi-functional
20 carrying bag having a pair of side storage compartments, wherein one of the side storage compartments includes a removable eyeglass zippered pouch for holding sunglasses or

eyeglasses therein; and wherein the other side storage compartment is used for storing and holding a cell phone, a beeper or other appropriate accessories therein.

Another advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a multi-functional carrying bag that is easy to use that allows for ease of accessibility and is made from flexible and cleanable materials for extended use.

Another advantage of the present invention is that it provides for a multi-functional carrying bag that can be mass produced in an automated and economical manner and is readily affordable by the consumer.

A latitude of modification, change, and substitution is intended in the foregoing disclosure, and in some instances, some features of the invention will be employed without a corresponding use of other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that the appended claims be construed broadly and in a manner consistent with the spirit and scope of the invention herein.